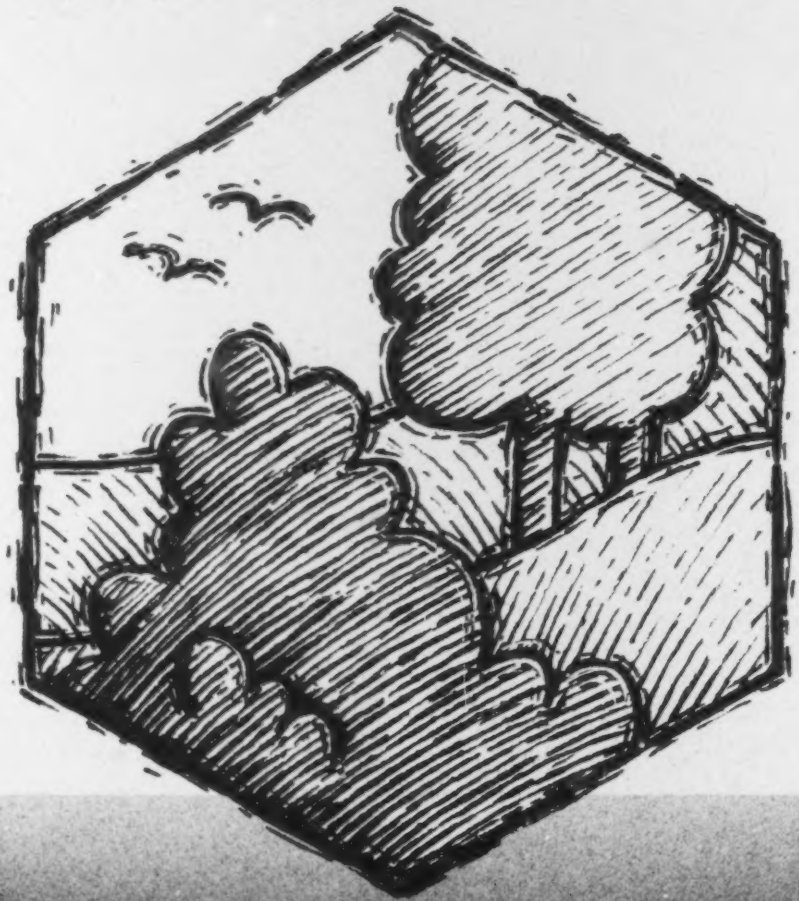
MIQUELON LAKE

PROVINCIAL PARK

Management Plan



Alberta
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Parks and Protected Areas

103-05971/

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park
Management Plan

November 2002

ALBERTA PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PREFACE

The Miquelon Lake Provincial Park management plan provides a long-term vision and day-to-day guidance for stewardship of the park. Department staff, within the context of existing legislation and regulations, prepared the plan. It outlines the type and extent of outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities, facilities and services. The plan provides direction regarding the delivery of heritage appreciation programs that assist Albertans and visitors to understand and appreciate our natural heritage while ensuring its ongoing preservation.

The management plan was developed with public input and is intended to provide for the periodic review and revision to reflect the current thinking of Albertans on how our natural heritage will be preserved for present and future generations.

The Minister responsible for parks and protected areas has authorized the implementation of the management plan and retains authority to amend or interpret its provisions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The team responsible for the preparation of the Management Plan included Derry Armstrong, Doug Gamble, Archie Landals and Maureen Lynch. The contribution by members of the public who took time to participate in the public input process is also gratefully acknowledged.

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1.0 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of this management plan is to outline the management intent of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and provide overall direction on how the park will be protected, operated and maintained in future years. This plan provides the overall direction for park programming, development, maintenance and protection practices.

Specifically, this management plan will:

- Identify the role Miquelon Lake Provincial Park plays within the system of parks and protected areas across Alberta
- Highlight the importance of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park as part of one of the last remaining aspen parkland corridors in east central Alberta
- Highlight the contribution that Miquelon Lake Provincial Park makes to the biodiversity, habitat preservation, and natural processes within the southern tip of the Cooking Lake Moraine known as the Beaverhills Cooking Lake area
- Define program objectives for preservation, heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation, and tourism
- Place existing facilities and programs in context with program objectives
- Identify issues and concerns and recommend remedial action, where necessary
- Identify upgrading and development requirements to meet program objectives
- Review opportunities and establish priorities for the addition of lands to Miquelon Lake Provincial Park
- Outline the public involvement process used in plan development
- Outline how the park will develop sustainable land use policies with other jurisdictions within the Beaverhills Cooking Lake area

2.0 OVERVIEW

2.1 Setting

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is located 65 kilometres southeast of Edmonton, within one of the last remaining aspen parkland corridors in east central Alberta, in a geographically raised and distinct natural area known as the Beaverhills – Cooking Lake Moraine. The park is 882 hectares in size and lies within the County of Camrose.

The park is accessible via Highway 21 and Secondary Road 623, both of which are paved. Being centrally located in the province, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is highly accessible to local, regional and provincial residents and visitors.

(See Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Location Map, next page)

(See Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine Map, following page)

2.2 Natural Features

2.2.1 Geology and Soils

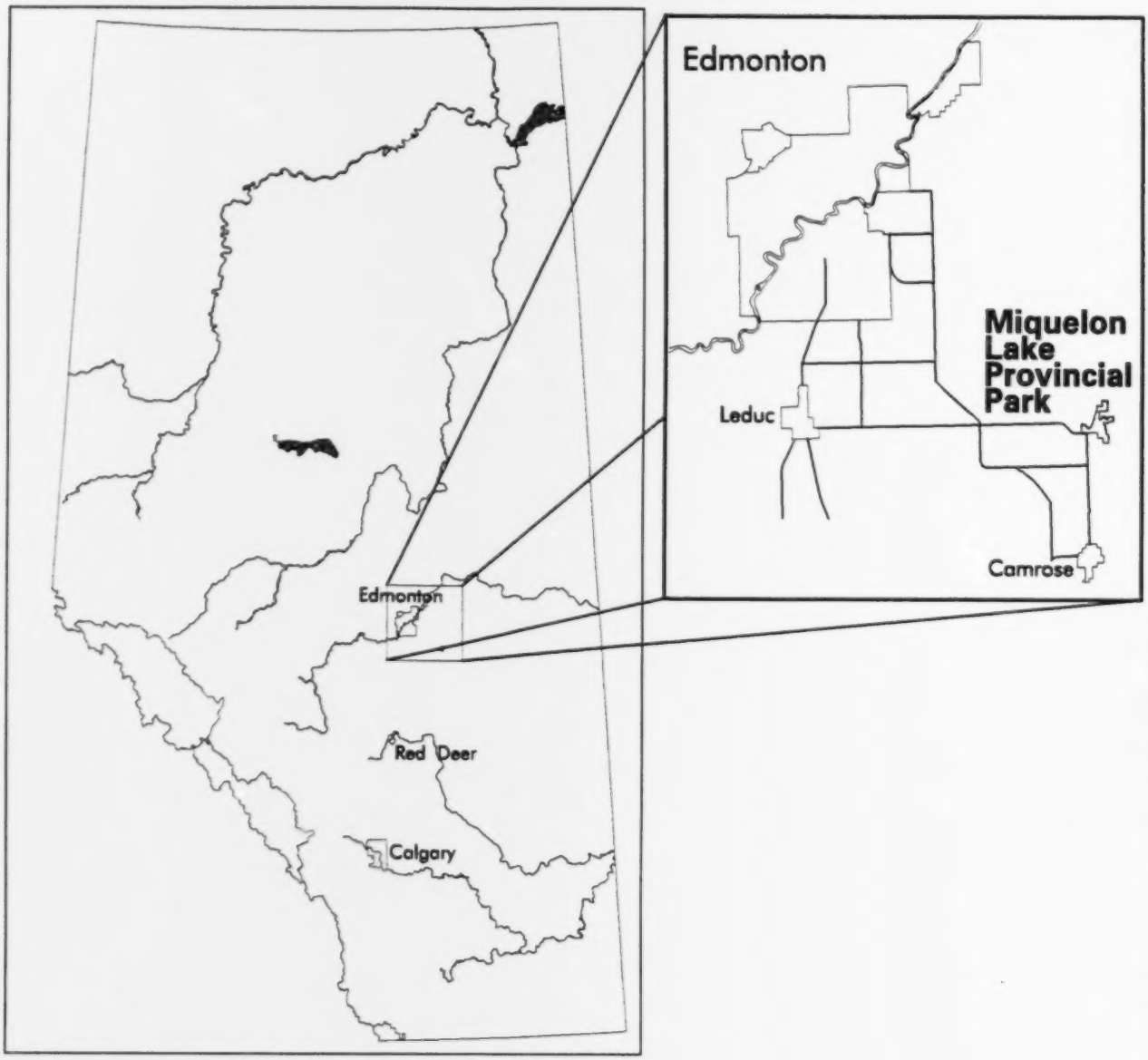
The Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine is a remnant of the last ice sheet and is approximately 60 metres higher than the surrounding plains. The moraine is characterized by 'knob and kettle' topography, a landscape of small hills and depressions. The overall relief varies approximately 30 metres. The highest point of land is located south of the park. The predominant soils surrounding the lake are fairly well drained Orthic Gray Luvisols that have severe limitations for forage crop production. These soils have developed from glacial till that originates mainly from the underlying bedrock. This moraine is part of the last remaining aspen parkland corridor in east central Alberta.

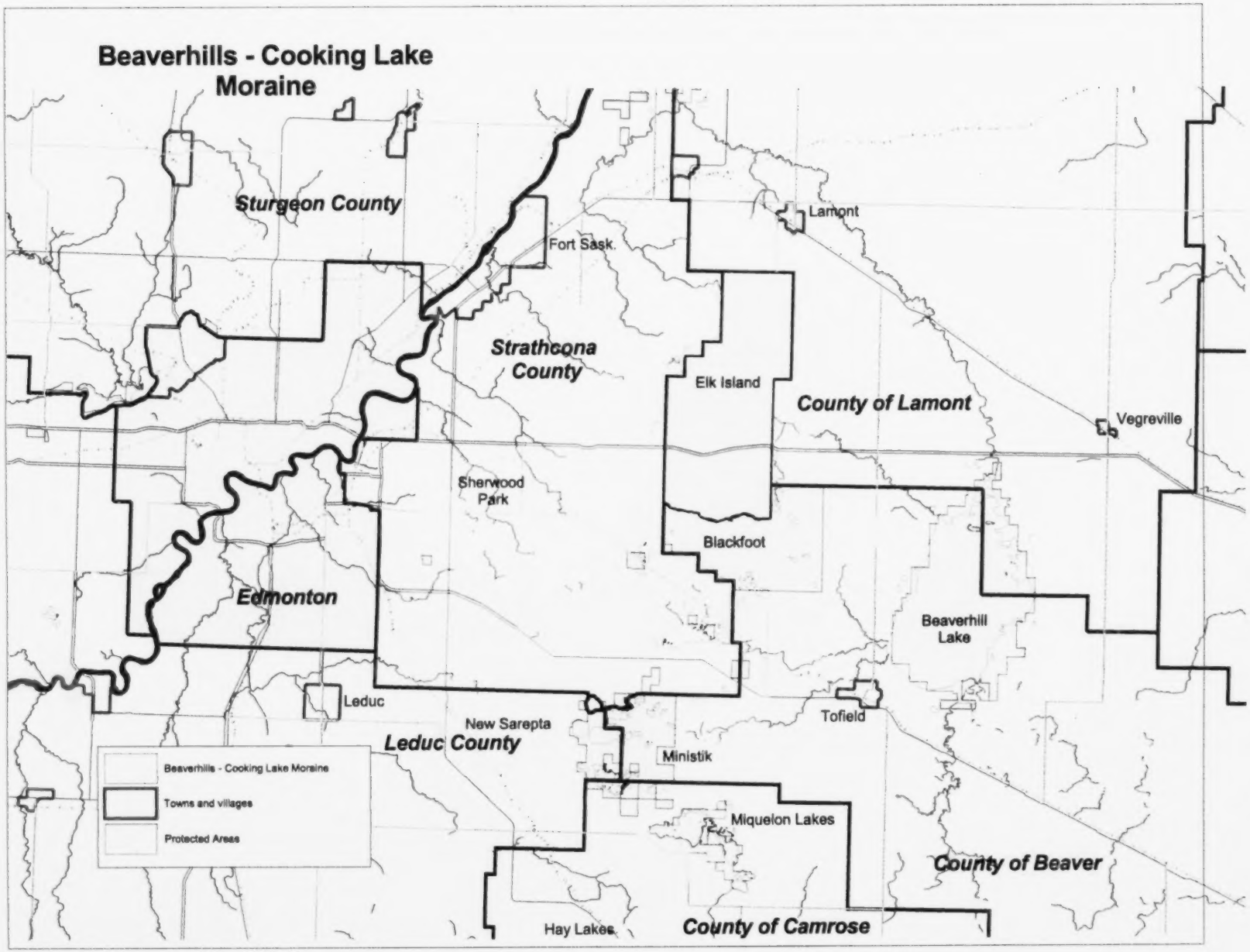
2.2.2 Climate

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park experiences a typical continental climate with long, cold winters and short, warm summers. The summer recreation season usually runs from late May to early September. The winter recreation season typically runs from November to March. The mean annual precipitation is 418 mm and average windspeed is 16 km/hr.

2.2.3 Water and Watershed

The shallow, salty Miquelon Lakes lie on the southern edge of the Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine. The lakes were once part of a considerably larger lake that receded and left three isolated basins. These are often referred to as "the Miquelon Lakes", with the largest basin being known as Miquelon Lake 3. The park is located on the east shore of Miquelon Lake 3 and along the west shore of the Miquelon Lake 2. Miquelon Lake 1 is located outside of the park's boundaries. All three lakes are migratory bird sanctuaries. Miquelon Lake 2 is a particularly important waterfowl staging area.


Edmonton
Miquelon
Lake
Provincial
Park
Leduc
Camrose
Edmonton
Red Deer
Calgary


Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine
Sturgeon County
Fort Sask.
Lamont
Strathcona County
Elk Island
County of Lamont
Vegreville
Sherwood Park
Blackfoot
Edmonton
Beaverhill Lake
Leduc
New Sarepta
Leduc County
Tofield
Ministik
Miquelon Lakes
County of Beaver
Hay Lakes
County of Camrose
Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine
Towns and villages
Protected Areas

The character of the Miquelon Lakes is strongly influenced by fluctuating water levels. Levels increased and declined in the late 1800s, but heavy rains in 1900 and 1901 restored the lakes in the moraine to high levels. At that time, the three Miquelon Lakes were joined and outflow from the lake probably occurred. Since then, there have been periodic droughts and changes in land use in the moraine. It is unknown whether changes in the groundwater inflow have contributed to the declining level, although it is known that the lake is spring-fed.

Miquelon Lake 3 had a maximum depth of approximately six metres when the lake was sounded in 1966. Much of the lake is less than 1.5 metres deep, particularly in the western bay. The level of the lake has been recorded since 1972.

The drainage basin of Miquelon Lake 3 is approximately four times larger than the area of the lake. There are no permanent inlet streams into Miquelon Lake 3 and there has been no surface outflow for more than 50 years. In the late 1920s, the outlet creek, which flowed from the most southern of the three Miquelon Lakes, was deepened to divert water for the Town of Camrose water supply. The flow in the diversion ditch ran approximately three years, although the ditch was deepened when flow declined.

Because salinity in Miquelon Lake 3 is high, algae production (as measured by chlorophyll) is depressed. Saline groundwater is present in the area, but evaporation likely plays a role in concentrating salts in the lake. Phosphorus concentrations are high. However, chlorophyll levels in Miquelon Lake 3 rank with those of some of the least-productive lakes in the province. Chlorophyll levels in Miquelon Lake 3 are highest in the spring and sometimes in the fall, rather than in midsummer as in most shallow freshwater lakes in Alberta. It is difficult to establish the trophic category of this lake. The high phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations suggest a eutrophic lake, but chlorophyll concentrations and the clarity of the water suggest that it is mesotrophic.

2.2.4 Vegetation and Wildlife

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park contains hummocky terrain that is characterized by a hilly landscape interspersed with numerous lakes, ponds and wetlands. There are five major vegetation communities within the park: aspen forest; spruce community; disturbed grasslands; ponds and marshes, and; the lake itself. Trembling aspen, balsam poplar, white spruce and other species of trees historically covered the drainage area, but clearing for agriculture and numerous fires at the turn of the century have reduced the forest cover. Today, natural regrowth has restored much of the native vegetation in the park. The dominant forest is aspen with a thick shrub layer (commonly red-osier dogwood), which is typical of aspen parkland. Groves of white spruce still remain, scattered throughout the park. Unlike the true aspen parkland, the park contains no natural fescue grassland.

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, along with adjoining conservation area partners such as the Ministik Bird Sanctuary, Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, and Elk Island National Park, serves as an important migratory corridor for many wildlife species. This ecosystem also protects many native vegetation species and wetlands.

With nearly 200 species of birds, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is an important stopover for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in central North America. The park's poplar forests attract many perching birds, including the northern oriole, yellow warbler and eastern phoebe. Savannah sparrows nest in the grassland habitat and red-tailed hawks are often seen flying over the park. The park's wetlands are home to ducks, grebes and red-winged blackbirds. The islands of Miquelon Lake are also important areas for nesting, feeding and resting. A large colony of ring-billed and California gulls nest on Gull Island.

Mammals in the park include moose, mule and white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrat, snowshoe hare, red and Franklin's ground squirrel, pocket gophers, voles, weasels, skunks and porcupines. The brook stickleback is reported to be the only species of fish remaining in Miquelon Lake 3. At the turn of the century, when the outlet was flowing, northern pike and suckers moved up the creek connecting the lake to the Battle River. Yellow perch were stocked in the lake in the mid-1950s. It is not clear why perch and pike are no longer in the lake, but it is likely that occasional winter kills, isolation from population sources, and the lake's high salinity have all played a part in reducing the survival of the spawn of these species.

Species diversity of the phytoplankton community in Miquelon Lake is low. Visual observations suggest that much of the plant production takes place on the bottom of the lake, as attached algae and macrophytes. The dominant species of macrophyte is widgeon grass, which is tolerant to saline conditions. The most dominant emergent species are several types of bulrush.

2.3 Recreation Features

Recreation features of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park include camping, picnicking, beach activities, swimming, boating, and trail use. The park offers day use, campground and group areas. A pond in the park is stocked annually with a small number of catchable-sized rainbow trout. The beach area at the park is generally popular for swimming. The saline water tends to inhibit the growth of algae, and the lake is often clear. Swimming, sailing, and wind surfing are popular recreation activities on the lake. Boats are restricted to a 12 km/hour maximum speed limit in the park area, and all boats are prohibited in certain waterfowl nesting areas and along the beach. Receding water levels have negatively impacted upon recreational activities such as boating and swimming.

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is open year-round. Residents of Edmonton, Leduc, Camrose and surrounding areas are the primary visitors to the park. Local area residents contribute primarily as day-use visitors. The highest use for camping and day-use occurs on weekends during the summer season with campgrounds at full, or near full, capacity on long weekends.

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park offers an extensive trail system (for walking, cycling and cross-country skiing) including ten kilometres of natural surface trails which take visitors into the natural areas of the park, and four kilometres of paved/gravel circulation trails

which provide access to park facilities. The park's trail system links to a regional trail, the Waskahegan Trail, which passes through the park.

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park had 136,441 visitors in 1999/2000, including a total of 56,646 campers and 79,655 day use visitors. The number of visitors to the park's day use and group use areas has remained relatively constant over the past 10 years, while camping use has increased; the number of occupied campsite nights have nearly doubled in the past 10 years.

2.3.1 Historical and Cultural Resources

Scandinavian settlers displaced the Metis in the late 1800s and farmed and raised livestock in the Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine. Joseph Zoel Cyr-Miquelon, a pioneer who served as an immigration and land agent, postmaster, justice-of-the-peace, registrar and sub-land agent during the early 1900s, is the namesake for the waters of the park. At that time, the natural resources of the Beaverhills were highly regarded and much of the three Miquelon Lakes and surrounding land were designated as the Miquelon Lake Bird Sanctuary. Some of this land is now part of the park; the remaining Crown land near the lakes and the lakes themselves retain their sanctuary status.

The Miquelon Lakes have traditionally been a well-known recreation spot and became especially popular with local residents after 1909 when a railway line was established between Camrose and Tofield. Over time, this new area become so popular that people pressed for the establishment of the areas as a public park.

In 1958, the Camrose Lion's Club acquired and donated the original parcel of land that became Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Today, more than 800 hectares are protected for their significant plant, animal and recreation resources.

2.3.2 Energy Developments

Three natural gas well sites and a pipeline for energy developments, which predate the designation of the park, are located within Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Enerplus Global Energy Management Company owns the well sites; Belair Energy owns the pipeline. Existing use within energy disposition leases focuses on minimizing impact of both the natural environment and the public's recreational use of the park.

2.3.3 Cottage Subdivision

A small cottage subdivision that predates designation of the park is located within the park. Over the years, the park has acquired available properties. Today, only one cottage on private land remains within the park.

2.3.4 Private Sector Involvement

The private sector is currently involved in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park as the campground operator and a recreational equipment rental service provider. These private sector services are consistent with province-wide standards and the *Provincial Parks Act,*

Regulations, Policies and Procedures. A retail store provides services just outside of the park boundary, adjacent to the park entrance.

2.4 Public Involvement

Public involvement has formed a major part of the planning process for Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Public input has been generally supportive of current park management practices. Overall, stakeholders and visitors have indicated that they are happy with how the park is being managed and have stated that they do not want to see any significant changes in park management.

This management plan was developed with considerable public input. In the summer of 1998, visitor survey activities were conducted in the park; interpretative programs, special events and public input brochures gave the public the opportunity to comment on the park. A draft copy of this management plan was available for public review and comment during the summer of 2001; opportunities for public input included a display at the Park Visitor Centre, with copies of the plan and plan summary available for public comment. In general, the public has been supportive of current park management practices.

2.5 Management Issues

A number of management issues have been identified at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and they are addressed in this management plan. Overall, the public has expressed satisfaction with the management of the park and feels that it offers good facilities and services. Specifically, visitors said that they support the park's approach to fees, development, campsites and interpretative services. Public-generated issues include requests to upgrade the beach area, washrooms, playgrounds, drinking water access and commercial services.

Details of the issues identified by the public are contained in the Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Management Planning Report entitled ***Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Visitor Survey Summary, May 2001.*** Details of the public input process followed for the draft management plan of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park are contained in the Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Management Planning Report entitled ***2001 Public Input Into Draft Management Plan, November 2001.***

The increase in urbanization in the Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine requires the park to work proactively with key stakeholders, to sustain the ecological viability of the area while maintaining a high quality of life and economic growth.

3.0 ROLE IN ALBERTA'S PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK

3.1 Classification

Parks and protected areas vary in size, in the capability of the landscape to sustain visitor use, and in the sensitivity and significance of natural heritage they preserve. Since no park or protected area cannot be all things to all people, parks and protected areas are assigned to one of seven classes: Ecological Reserves, Wilderness Areas, Wildland Provincial Parks, Provincial Parks, Natural Areas, Provincial Recreation Areas, and Heritage Rangelands. Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is classified as a Provincial Park.

Provincial parks offer a range of outdoor recreation opportunities and associated support facilities for the purpose of promoting the appreciation of a park's natural heritage and cultural features. Interpretive and educational programs that enhance visitor understanding, appreciation and respect for Alberta's natural heritage are offered in many provincial parks. Auto access is typically provided to staging areas and support facilities.

There are four program goals for provincial parks, which guide Alberta's system of parks and protected areas. They are preservation, heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation, and tourism.
Only sites of provincial or greater significance that are capable of providing high quality heritage appreciation, nature-oriented outdoor recreation or heritage tourism opportunities are established as provincial parks.

Provincial parks preserve Alberta's natural heritage and often become significant provincial tourism destinations. As a result, visitors can expect nature-oriented recreation opportunities, supported by facilities and heritage appreciation programs that reflect the following four program goals:

Preservation: Provincial parks preserve and protect a system of provincially significant natural landscapes incorporating the greatest possible diversity of natural heritage and landscape-related pre-historical and historical resources. Preserving these heritage features can only be accomplished by adopting an ecosystem-based management approach through joint conservation initiatives.

Heritage Appreciation: Provincial parks provide opportunities for exploration, understanding and appreciation of natural heritage through a range of interpretative and educational programs.

Outdoor Recreation: Provincial parks provide auto access and backcountry opportunities for outdoor recreation that are compatible with the preservation of natural heritage values.

Heritage Tourism: Provincial parks provide opportunities for provincial, national and international visitors to explore and experience Alberta's natural heritage.

3.2. Natural Region Theme Representation

The Alberta government is committed to protecting representative samples of Alberta's natural and cultural heritage. The landscape classification framework, "Natural Regions and Subregions of Alberta" helps define the contribution that an individual protected area makes to preserving the province's natural heritage. This framework is a hierarchy of natural regions, subregions, and natural history themes. Natural regions provide the "big picture" of Alberta's landscapes. The subregions and natural history themes are subdivisions of the natural regions, and provide a more specific picture of smaller areas.

There are six Natural Regions in Alberta: Boreal Forest, Rocky Mountain, Foothills, Canadian Shield, Parkland and Grassland. Differences between these regions are readily apparent by their distinct landform features and vegetation. Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is located in a transition area within the Boreal Forest and Parkland Natural Regions.

(See Natural Regions and Sub Regions of Alberta Map, next page).

Natural Regions
↓
Natural Subregions
↓
Level 1 Themes
↓
Level 2 Themes
↓
Level 3 Themes

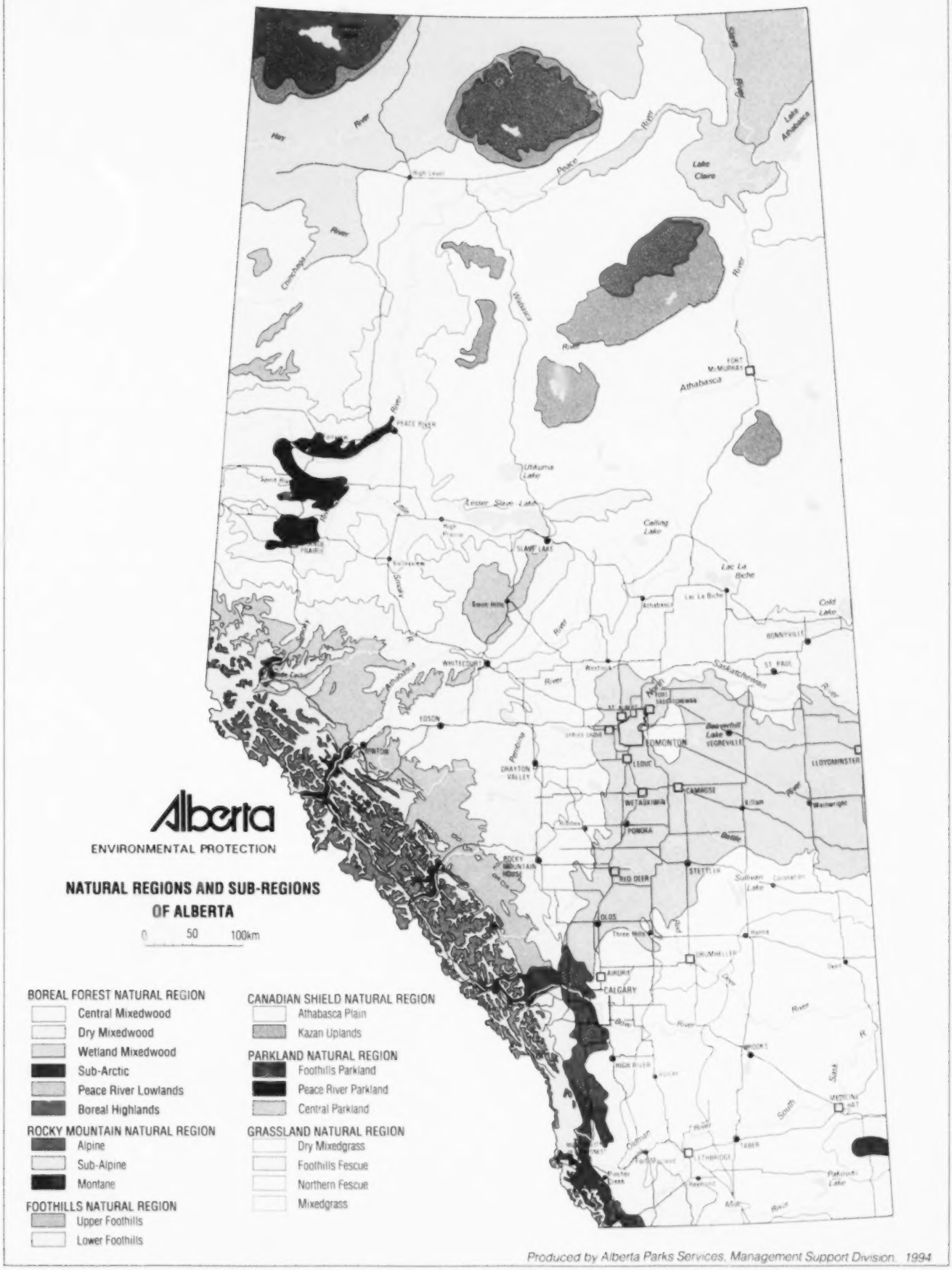
Each Natural Region is divided into subregions. Miquelon Lake Provincial Park represents the transition between the Dry Mixedwood Boreal Forest Subregion and the Central Parkland Subregion.

Subregions are further divided into Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Natural History themes. Level 1 themes are based on easily observed landforms. Examples of Level 1 themes in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park are non-sandy upland-hummocky moraine, springs, and deep marshes.

Level 2 themes are more specific breakdowns of Level 1 themes. They refer to distinctive habitat types, vegetation, or highly visible geology features. Examples of Level 2 themes in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park are mixedwood and deciduous forests, alkaline, saline open water, and deep open water beaver ponds.

Level 3 themes are finer breakdowns of Level 2 themes. They include specific features such as rare plants and animals, and specific bedrock and landform types. Examples of Level 3 themes in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park include brook stickleback, eastern phoebe and widgeon grass.

The following table shows the Level 1 and Level 2 Natural History themes of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park.



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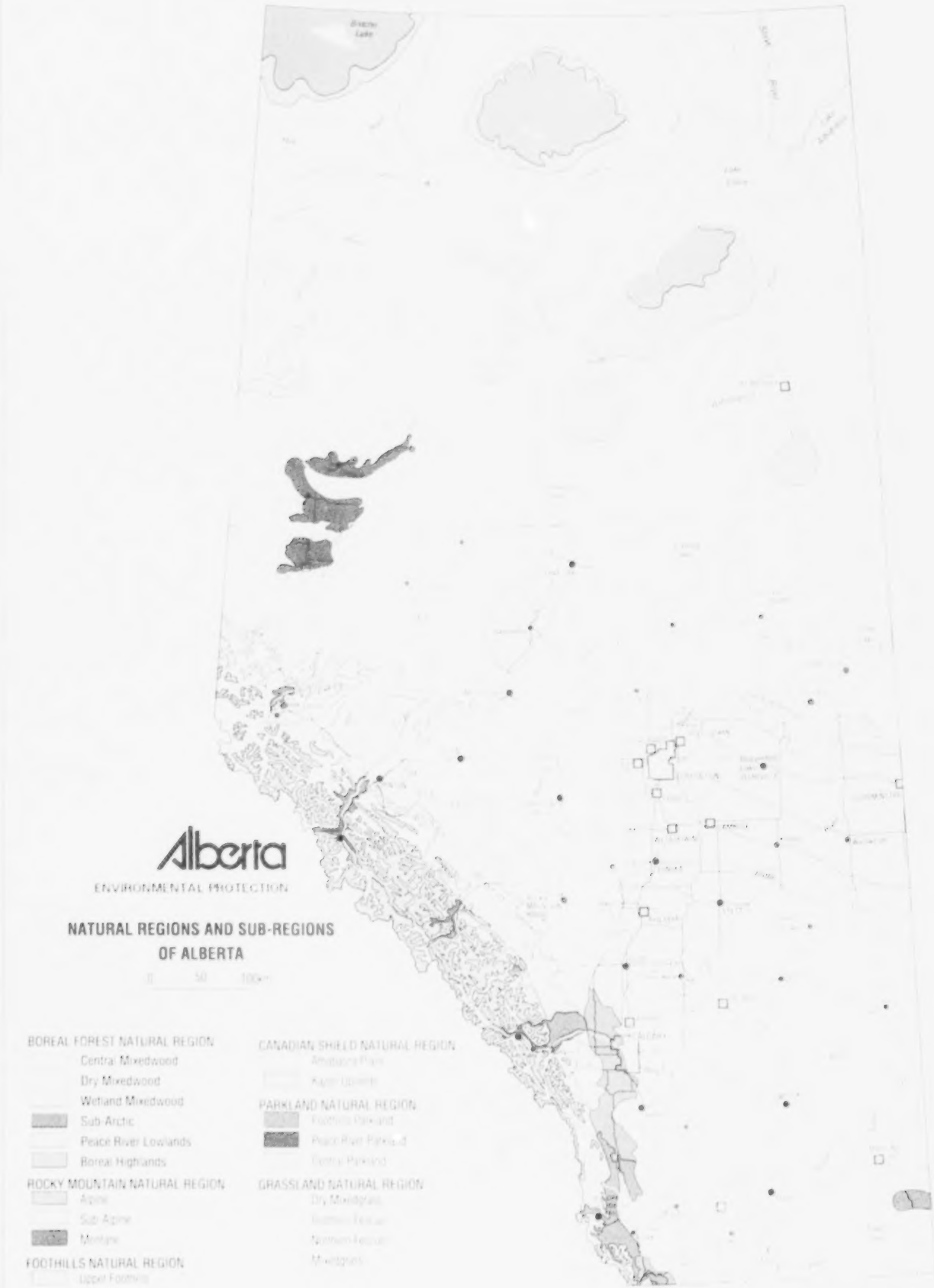

Alberta
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATURAL REGIONS AND SUB-REGIONS
OF ALBERTA
BOREAL FOREST NATURAL REGION
Central Mixedwood
Dry Mixedwood
Wetland Mixedwood
Sub-Arctic
Peace River Lowlands
Boreal Highlands
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURAL REGION
Alpine
Sub-Alpine
Montane
FOOTHILLS NATURAL REGION
Upper Foothills
Lower Foothills
CANADIAN SHIELD NATURAL REGION
PARKLAND NATURAL REGION
GRASSLAND NATURAL REGION
Dry Mixedgrass

Natural History Themes Miquelon Lake Provincial Park	
Level 1 Natural History Themes	**Level 2 Natural History Themes**
Boreal Forest Natural Region Dry Mixedwood Subregion	
Non-Sandy Upland- Hummocky Moraine	Mixedwood forest Deciduous forest*
Parkland Natural Region Central Parkland Subregion	
Springs	Alkaline
Wetland-Wet Meadow	Non-Slightly Saline Saline
Shallow Marsh	Shallow Open Water
Deep Marsh	Deep Open Water Beaver Pond

* indicates well represented theme in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park

3.3 Purpose and Objectives of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is one of many sites within a large system of parks and protected areas in Alberta. As such, it plays a unique role in contributing towards the parks and protected area objectives of preservation, outdoor recreation, tourism and heritage appreciation. From a greater ecosystem perspective, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park contributes primarily to the long-term preservation of the aspen parkland corridor where wildlife species and wetlands flow through a natural landscape. Miquelon Lake Provincial Park contributes primarily to the preservation goal of parks and protected areas by preserving significant natural landscapes and making significant contributions to heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation and tourism.

Miquelon Lake is designated as a provincial park due to its ability to protect a significant natural landscape and features, while providing quality recreational and heritage appreciation experiences.

The purpose of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is to:

- assist in protecting a land area typical of the Cooking Lake Moraine and representative of the Dry Mixedwood Subregion of the Boreal Forest Natural Region and the Central Parkland Subregion of the Parkland Natural Region.

- provide opportunities for local visitors and tourists to experience the opportunity of outdoor recreation and education in a setting with adequate facilities and services.

- develop partnerships with adjoining conservation areas to maintain the ecological integrity of the Beaverhills

The objectives of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park are based on the following four broad program objectives of the Alberta parks system:

3.3.1 Preservation

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is a protected area with a land base of 882 hectares. The park is located within the Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine, an area that is an extremely hospitable feeding, nesting, staging and moulting habitat for thousands of migrating and resident waterfowl and other wetland birds. The ecoregion features large and small permanent marshes, temporary wetlands, residual native cover and agricultural areas. Although considered relatively small on its own, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park plays an important role within the greater Beaverhills ecosystem by protecting the last remaining aspen parkland corridor in east central Alberta along with neighbouring conservation areas. The preservation value of the park is increased when combined with the Ministic Bird Sanctuary, Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area and Elk Island National Park. Together, these conservation areas preserve a significant part of the Cooking Lake Moraine. Existing gaps between these protected areas are still in a relatively natural condition. In addition, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park works with Ducks Unlimited to preserve the waterfowl staging areas within the park.

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is representative of the Boreal Forest and Parkland Natural Regions and is significant for the diversity of wetlands it preserves. Only freshwater and saline lakes are not represented within the park, and these two themes are well represented by lakes adjacent to the park.
Miquelon Lake Provincial Park identifies the following preservation objectives:

- To preserve the ecological integrity of the heritage features within the park that are typical of the Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine and representative of the Boreal Forest and Parkland Natural Regions.

- To protect the wildlife habitat and species within Miquelon Lake Provincial Park.

- To protect the vegetation and provide a natural environment in the park.

- To work with partners to maintain the ecological integrity of the Cooking Lake Moraine.

- To work with partners to protect Miquelon Lake 2 as a waterfowl staging area.

- To work with partners to establish sustainable land use policies that will protect the long-term ecological integrity of the Beaverhills area.

3.3.2 Heritage Appreciation

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park values heritage appreciation as an important component of the visitor experience. The park provides an ideal opportunity to provide interpretation services of the Boreal Forest and Parkland Natural Regions. Centrally located in a populated area near Highway 21, the park offers visitor opportunities to explore, appreciate and understand wetland and wildlife diversity.

The park identifies the following heritage appreciation objectives:

- To enhance visitors' understanding, use and enjoyment of the park environment by providing interpretive and educational opportunities within the park.

- To provide the public with an opportunity to experience the biological diversity of the aspen parkland corridor setting.

- To provide environmental education opportunities for youth groups and school groups throughout the year.

- To partner with other conservation areas involved in promoting and educating public and local schools on conservation, using the Beaverhills as a model.

3.3.3 Outdoor Recreation

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park offers access to the Boreal Forest and Parkland Natural Regions and provides a variety of recreational facilities and services in a natural setting for local, regional and provincial visitors.

The park identifies the following outdoor recreation objectives:

- To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities (including swimming, beach activities, picnicking, camping, open play areas, boating, walking and biking) that enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding of the park's natural resources and surrounding area.

- To ensure the park's ecosystem-based cooperative initiatives provide public opportunities to experience the transitional area between the lower mixed wood boreal forest and interior grassland plains.

- To maintain and expand a regional trail network within the Beaverhills area that encourages a series of interconnected trails with neighbouring conservation organizations.

- To ensure that a proportion of recreation facilities is barrier free.

3.3.4 Tourism

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is a provincial destination that supports the provision of nature-based tourism opportunities to nearby Edmonton. Aided by its central location and proximity to Camrose, the park is able to integrate its tourism objectives into the local tourism network.

The park identifies the following tourism objectives:

- To provide outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation opportunities for tourists to Miquelon Lake Provincial Park.

- To cooperate with other tourism partners, such as Ministic Bird Sanctuary, Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, and Elk Island National Park.

- To support tourism opportunities, compatible with park objectives, that enhance the economic development of surrounding communities.

4.0 ZONING

To deal with the complexity of its land base, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is divided into zones, with specific management and operational objectives. Zoning ensures long-term protection of park resources while directing visitor activities to the most appropriate areas of the park.

There are three management zones within Miquelon Lake Provincial Park: the Facility Zone, the Natural Environment Zone and Preservation Zone.

(See Zoning Map, next page).

4.1 Facility Zone

The purpose of the Facility Zone in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is to provide visitor support facilities for the enjoyment and convenience of park visitors. The Facility Zone covers the developed portion of the park. This area includes the entrance and access roads, parking lots, campground facilities, group camping areas, playgrounds, operational and administrative buildings, day-use facilities, picnic areas and beach.

The Facility Zone in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park will be managed to allow a variety of recreational activities that are appropriate within a provincial park experience and in keeping with the goals and objectives of the park.

4.2 Natural Environment Zone

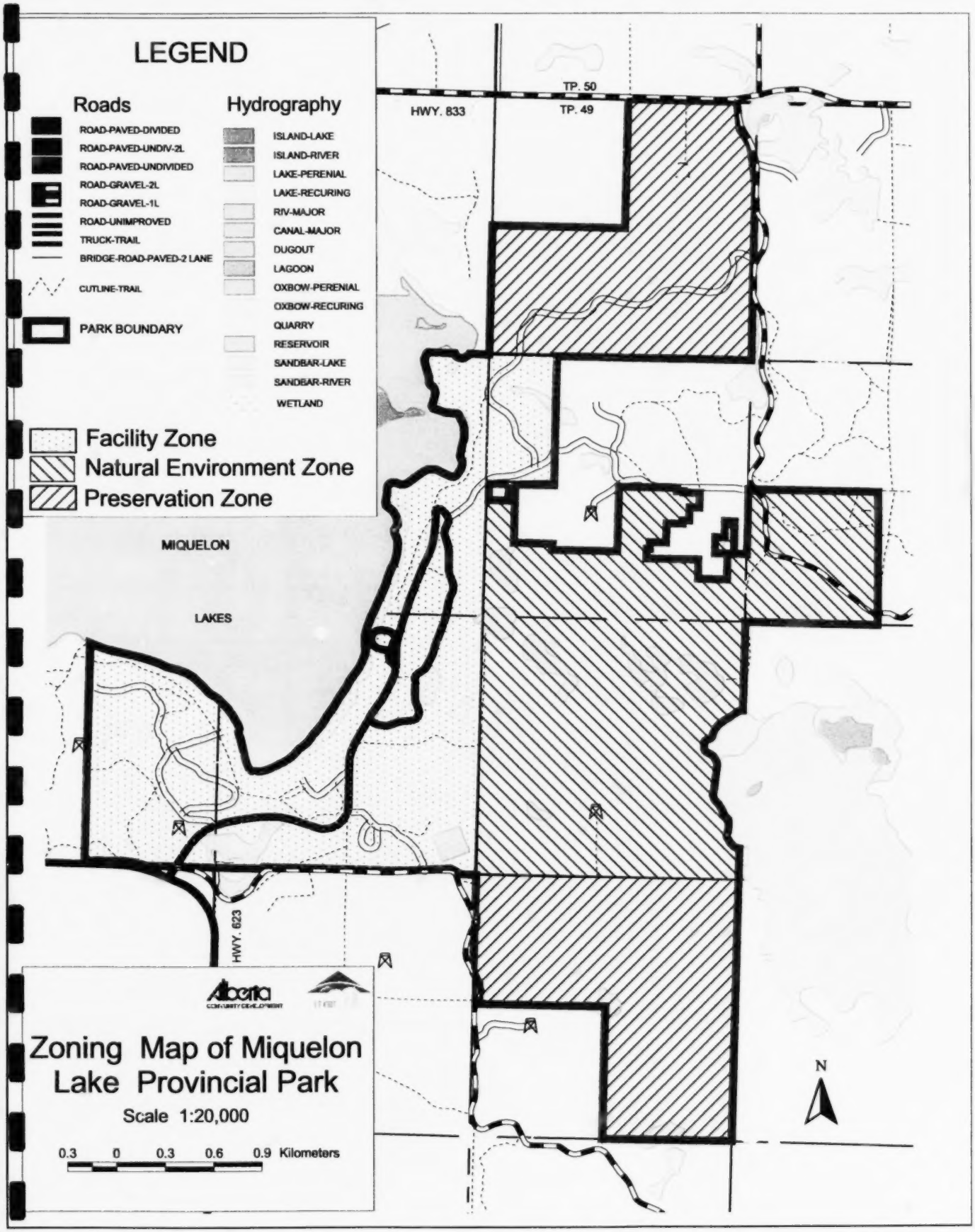
The purpose of the Natural Environment Zone in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is to protect the park's natural resources and features while providing access to trails that bring visitors in closer contact with nature. The Natural Environment Zone covers parts of the undeveloped portions of the park.

The Natural Environment Zone in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park will be managed to allow outdoor and heritage appreciation activities that are in keeping with the protection and maintenance of the park's natural state. The Zone will allow visitor access to the natural areas of the park in a way that protects the park's natural resources and features.

4.3 Preservation Zone

The purpose of the Preservation Zone in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is to protect land that is representative of the dry mixedwood aspen area and provide special protection to perpetuate values of natural heritage concern. The Preservation Zone covers the areas in the north eastern and southeastern quadrants of the park; it contains energy dispositions, pre-dating the park's designation that must be honoured.

The Preservation Zone in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park will be managed to allow natural processes to continue unhindered. Any use of the area must be consistent with the


LEGEND
Roads
ROAD-PAVED-DIVIDED
ROAD-PAVED-UNDIV-2L
ROAD-PAVED-UNDIVIDED
ROAD-GRAVEL-2L
ROAD-GRAVEL-1L
ROAD-UNIMPROVED
TRUCK-TRAIL
BRIDGE-ROAD-PAVED-2 LANE
CUTLINE-TRAIL
PARK BOUNDARY
Hydrography
ISLAND-LAKE
ISLAND-RIVER
LAKE-PERENIAL
LAKE-RECURING
RIV-MAJOR
CANAL-MAJOR
DUGOUT
LAGOON
OXBOW-PERENIAL
OXBOW-RECURING
QUARRY
RESERVOIR
SANDBAR-LAKE
SANDBAR-RIVER
WETLAND
Facility Zone
Natural Environment Zone
Preservation Zone
TP. 50
TP. 49
HWY. 833
MIQUELON
LAKES
HWY. 623
Alberta
Zoning Map of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park
Scale 1:20,000
0.3 0 0.3 0.6 0.9 Kilometers
N

preservation of natural values and will, through necessity, be controlled or restricted to protect the resource.

5.0 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The following management guidelines apply to the Facility Zone, the Natural Environment Zone and the Preservation Zone in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, except where noted otherwise.

Park resources will be directed to projects that address environmental issues, heritage appreciation and preservation objectives, infrastructure and safety concerns, and minimum standards.

5.1 Resource Protection and Management Guidelines

The resource protection and management guidelines for Miquelon Lake Provincial Park are designed to enhance the ecological integrity of the park by minimizing negative impacts of activities and projects. Natural processes will generally be permitted to occur within the park, as much as practical, with minimal interference or management. However, management action may be required to accommodate visitor facilities and visitor safety.

The park will make efforts to cooperate with other jurisdictions to develop ecological indicators for the Beaverhills. These indicators will serve to monitor success towards maintaining the ecological integrity of the Beaverhills area.

The park will make efforts to integrate additional natural resource management and monitoring with its partners into a larger framework for the greater Beaverhills area.

5.1.1 Wildlife

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park supports a wide variety of wildlife and bird species that will be protected.

The park identifies the following wildlife management guidelines:

- Wildlife management will generally not be undertaken, except in cases where species are a threat to public safety or enjoyment of facilities (i.e. beavers, bears). Alberta Community Development (Parks and Protected Areas), as the department responsible for provincial parks and protected areas, will review, and upon approval, support efforts by other organizations and agencies to enhance wildlife management on parklands.

- The park will work closely with Ducks Unlimited to enhance and maintain the ecological integrity of the waterfowl staging area on Miquelon Lake 2.

- The park will work with neighbouring Beaverhills partners to develop management and monitoring guidelines for wildlife in the greater Beaverhills area.

- Park boundaries will be signed to protect wildlife and natural resources.

5.1.2 Aquatics

Aquatics form a major portion of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and are a key component of the park.

The park identifies the following aquatic management guidelines:

- The park will monitor drinking water and beach water quality within the park, in conjunction with the local health unit.

- The park will monitor lake water quality, in conjunction with Alberta Environment.

- The park will work with area Beaverhills partners to develop water quality monitoring guidelines for the greater Beaverhills area.

- The park will not support the stabilization of lake water levels.

5.1.3 Vegetation

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is home to unique vegetation that will be protected.

The park identifies the following management guidelines:

- New vegetation planting will only be done with species that are native to the Dry Mixedwood Subregion of the Boreal Forest Natural Region and the Central Parkland Subregion of the Parkland Natural Region.

- Former agricultural areas located in the Preservation Zone will be allowed to naturally regenerate. No tree planting will be undertaken.

- Detailed canopy management, to enhance the health of the forest area in the Facility Zone, may be undertaken.

- Hazard tree management in the Facility Zone will be limited to removal of dead and diseased trees that represent a hazard to people or park facilities. No hazard tree removal will occur in the Natural Environment Zone or Preservation Zone.

- Appropriate action will be taken if pollutants are released in the park which are either dangerous to humans or are toxic to the environment.

- Control of insects and diseases affecting vegetation may not be undertaken, except in cases where the outbreak has the potential to detrimentally affect lands outside of the park.

- Noxious and restricted weeds will be controlled as directed under the Weed Act.

- Spraying for aesthetic purposes will not be undertaken.

- The park will develop joint management and monitoring vegetation initiatives with area Beaverhills partners.

5.1.4 Fire Management

Fire management planning is a necessary component of overall resource management planning within Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and the park will maintain a fire management plan.

The park identifies the following guidelines to address the management of fires:

- The park will undertake the immediate suppression of all fires, in cooperation with the County of Camrose and the Hay Lakes Fire Department who provide fire protection services for this area of the County.

- Emergency response for structural fires will rely on the County of Camrose and the Hay Lakes Fire Department.

- Prescribed burning may be considered in the park's Natural Environment and Preservation Zones.

- The park will develop a fire management plan with area partners for the greater Beaverhills area.

5.1.5 Emergency Response

Emergency response planning is a necessary component of overall management planning within Miquelon Lake Provincial Park.

- The park will maintain an emergency response plan to deal with emergency situations within the park. The plan will outline procedures for handling such issues as emergency evacuation, park closures and missing persons.

- The park with work in coordination with energy companies to prepare for emergencies relating to energy developments within the park.

5.2 Heritage Appreciation Management Guidelines

Heritage appreciation forms an integral component of the visitor experience at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. The park will continue existing programs and will consider the following opportunities to upgrade and expand heritage appreciation activities within the park.

The park identifies the following heritage appreciation management guidelines:

- Heritage appreciation will address natural feature themes, including:
    - Natural Regions of Alberta
    - Miquelon Lake and its aquatic environment
    - The Beaverhills - Cooking Lake Moraine area
    - Waterfowl staging habitat
    - Wildlife species and habitat
    - Protected areas and their benefits
    - Management of the park following ecological principles
    - The aspen parkland corridor in which the park is located
    - Natural processes, such as ungulate herbivory, migration, wetland flooding by beavers and fire

- The park will provide heritage appreciation programs. Delivery of year-round interpretive programs and environmental education programs will use non-personal media such as signs, displays and brochures. Staff and volunteers will provide personal interpretation when possible.

- A visitor centre and amphitheater will provide a focus for programs, activities and displays.

- The park will promote opportunities with local schools and youth groups to use the park for outdoor education.

Development Considerations:

- Expansion of the heritage appreciation program will be considered to include year-round programming and upgrading or replacement of the visitor centre. Heritage appreciation activities will not occur within the Preservation Zone.

5.3 Recreation and Tourism Management Guidelines

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is committed to providing recreation and tourism opportunities that are in keeping with the natural environment of the park. The intent of the park's recreation and tourism efforts is to maintain and enhance existing recreation and tourism facilities. Major expansion of facilities and services will not be encouraged.

5.3.1 Campgrounds

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is committed to providing camping opportunities that are in keeping with park objectives. Campground services will be provided in a natural setting to accommodate a variety of recreational campers. Campgrounds will be accessible to all types of recreational camping units.

The Facility Zone at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park will be managed to provide campground opportunities as follows:

A campground with approximately 280 gravelled campsites providing some or all of the following:

- A minimum of three barrier-free sites with access to toilets, showers and paved trails
- Adequate washroom and shower facilities to meet peak usage requirements
- A minimum of 121 campsites with electrical services
- Playground equipment maintained to safety standards
- A trailer dump and fill station for park visitors
- No fixed roof accommodation (i.e. cabins, hotels, lodges)

Several group use sites will be made available at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Units may feature firepits, picnic tables, power, water, vault toilets, sports fields, and/or group picnic shelters. The number of group use sites is under detailed review.

Development Considerations:

- No major expansion of the campground is proposed. However, minor improvements may include:
    - enlargement of campsites to accommodate larger camping units in Campground Loop A
    - consideration to individual site services, such as power
    - replacement of playground equipment to meet safety standards.
- Repairs/upgrades will be considered for:
    - shower buildings
    - washrooms
    - laundry facilities
    - improved barrier-free accessibility
- Consideration will be given to modification of group use sites to improve existing usage.

5.3.2 Day Use

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is committed to providing day use opportunities that are in keeping with park objectives.

The Facility Zone at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park will be managed to provide the following day-use recreation opportunities:

- The day use area will be approximately 25 acres in total size, of which 10 acres will be for picnic sites. There will be a minimum of 45 picnic sites. Each site will contain at least one table.

- 20 picnic sites in the day use area will be designed as small, informal group picnic sites. Each group site will have a fire pit and three to five tables.

- The day use area will provide a beach with a swimming area.

- The day use area will provide space for informal games such as volleyball, and frisbee.

- The day use area will provide playground equipment, maintained to safety standards.

- A baseball diamond will be maintained for use by park visitors.

- The park will provide primary parking for 350 vehicles and overflow parking for 250 vehicles.

Development Considerations:

- Consideration will be given to the addition of specific facilities, such as outdoor showers, to upgrade existing facilities to better accommodate existing uses.

- Consideration will be given to modification of parking area to improve existing usage.

5.3.3 Boating

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park will offer boating opportunities on Miquelon Lake.

- The park will provide a boat launch area at Miquelon Lake 3.

- The park will maintain boating restrictions in the swimming area and reduced speed limits in the zone adjacent to the swimming area.

- The park will maintain the boating restriction that requires boaters to keep their speed to 12 km/hr in waters within 30 metres of shore. Boats that tow recreation users (i.e. water skiers) will be encouraged to leave perpendicular to the shore.

- The park will provide parking for 20 boat trailers.

Development Considerations:

- The park will monitor boat activity on Miquelon Lake 3 for the purposes of safety, shoreline impact, and protection of nesting activity.

- Power boating on Miquelon Lake 2 will be discouraged to protect waterfowl. No launch facility is available due to shallow water levels.

5.3.4 Trails

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park will provide a recreational trail system that offers visitors the opportunity for nature appreciation.

The park will be managed to provide the following trail opportunities:

- Trails will be for year-round use. Ten kilometres of natural surface trails will provide opportunities for heritage appreciation. Four kilometres of paved/gravel circulation trails will provide access to park facilities.

- Grooming of trails for cross-country skiing will be permitted.

- Equestrian use on park trails is prohibited.

- Off-highway vehicle and snowmobile use on park trails is prohibited.

Development Considerations:

- The trail system will be maintained to preserve its existing quality and size for park visitors.

- Expansion of the trail system, for nature appreciation within the park, will be considered (except in the Preservation Zone).

- The trail system will encourage links to a regional trail network within the Beaverhills area through a series of interconnected trails with neighbouring conservation organizations, including the Waskehagen Trails.

- Trail expansion and improvements in the Natural Environment Zone will be considered.

5.3.5 Roads

The main access roads within Miquelon Lake Provincial Park provide the primary access to the park and will be maintained as a paved surface. Interior roads within the campground will be maintained as gravel surface.

Development Considerations:

- The park will consider the issue of speed on park roads in relation to safety concerns.

5.3.6 Special Events

Special events that focus on the natural attributes of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and are consistent with park objectives will be permitted.

- Special events will be considered that do not unduly restrict recreation opportunities of other users. Events must not damage the natural or cultural resources of the area or place exceptional demands on the staff and budget resources of the park.

- Permission from the park Conservation Officer will be required prior to the date of any event.

- At least 30 days notice will be required to allow for staffing arrangements and facility preparation.

5.3.7 Commercial Activities

Commercial services will be limited within Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and must be in keeping with park objectives.

- A food concession or store will not be provided in the park, due to the proximity of available services adjacent to the park boundary.

- Rental of non-motorized recreation equipment (i.e. canoes, bicycles) will be permitted.

- Powerboat rentals will be prohibited.

Development Considerations:

- Other types of commercial activities may be considered, if they are in keeping with the natural environment and objectives of the park.

- Commercial activities such as arcades, golf courses, lodges, hotels, and convenience stores will not be considered.

5.3.8 Park Shop and Office

The park shop and office will be maintained.

Development Considerations:

- Upgrading of the park shop will be considered.

5.4 The Role of the Private Sector

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park supports the involvement of the private sector in the operation and maintenance of park facilities. In addition, the private sector may play a role in the upgrading of facilities in the park.

The park identifies the following guidelines regarding the role of the private sector:

- Services provided by the private sector within Miquelon Lake Provincial Park must be consistent with provincial-wide standards, the *Provincial Parks Act, Regulations, Policies and Procedures,* the long-term preservation objectives of the park and the Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Management Plan.

Development Considerations:

- The private sector is encouraged to work with Alberta Parks and Protected Areas (Community Development) to upgrade and maintain existing facilities and/or to construct new facilities (such as group use areas and parking lots) for improvements that are identified in this management plan.

- The park encourages partnerships that support the long-term preservation objectives and management plan of the park.

6.0 LAND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

6.1 Energy Developments

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park will honour all existing energy development lease commitments.

- Management of leased lands will focus on minimizing impacts on both the natural environment and the public's recreational use of the park. In the long term, the park encourages reclamation of leased lands to match natural conditions.

- Only existing oil and gas dispositions will be permitted within the park.

- No new surface disposition leases will be issued.

- No new surface disturbance will be permitted for the purposes of resource extraction.

- Only new developments from existing pads will be permitted.

- The park will not provide services to energy development leases.

- Reclamation of leases and right-of-ways will match the park's natural surroundings. Opportunities to convert energy sites into new recreational uses (i.e. trails) will be considered during rehabilitation in the Natural Environment Zone.

6.2 Land Acquisition

The long range intent of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is to work with the County of Camrose to seek opportunities to purchase lands adjacent to the park for the purpose of a park land expansion. Lands considered for expansion must be voluntarily made available for sale, and offer land use that is compatible with park objectives.

- The park's priority in land acquisition is the purchase of the one remaining private cottage that exists within the park.

- If the existing cottage owner in the park wishes to voluntarily sell their property to the park, the cottage site would be rehabilitated to match the park's natural surroundings.

7.0 SURROUNDING LAND USE

The County of Camrose Land Use Bylaw designates the use of private lands around Miquelon Lake Provincial Park as agricultural, residential, and recreational. A golf course is adjacent to the park. In addition, the Alberta Sports Recreations Parks and Wildlife Foundation (ASRPW) Foundation manage lands adjacent to the north boundary of the park.

- The park will work with the County of Camrose to ensure that land use surrounding the park is compatible with park objectives.

- The park will work with ASRPW to encourage compatible management of adjacent lands.

- The park will discourage new activities that increase recreational park use.

8.0 COORDINATION GUIDELINES

Coordination of park management activities with other agencies and landowners is important to the successful operation of Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Contact will be maintained with adjacent landowners annually or when specific issues arise. Alberta Parks and Protected Areas (Community Development) will contact other government agencies, such as the County of Camrose, when issues arise where their input may be helpful.

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

Implementation of the Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Management Plan will be the primary responsibility of Alberta Community Development (Parks and Protected Areas).

- Budget resources will be required to implement facility upgrading and improvements.

- Redevelopment will proceed on a priority basis, as budget resources are available.

- The park will consider, and seek out, partnership opportunities to implement this management plan.

- Monitoring of the management plan will occurring on an on-going basis, including review of the action requirements identified in this plan (See Appendix II).

- Major unseen changes in the operation of the park may require review of the management plan.

- As part of the management plan implementation strategy, a 10-year review will be held to ensure opportunities for public input and feedback.

APPENDIX I:
LIST OF KEY RESOURCE REFERENCES

A Framework for Alberta's Special Places, Natural Regions Report No. 1, Alberta Special Places, Alberta Environmental Protection.

Visitation Statistics Provincial Parks & Recreation Areas 1999/2000, Alberta Environment.

Alberta's Parks: Our Legacy, 1992, Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

Atlas of Alberta Lakes, 1990, University of Alberta Press.

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Visitor Survey Summary, May 2001, Management Planning Report

2001 Public Input Into Draft Management Plan, November 2001, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Management Planning Report

APPENDIX II
ACTION REQUIREMENTS

The following list summarizes the tasks necessary to implement the Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Management Plan (as of August 2001). The list is presented in the order in which the topics are outlined in the plan. The priority for completing each task, and responsibility for action, will be reviewed as the annual work plan for Miquelon Lake Provincial Park is prepared.

Heritage Appreciation

- Expansion of the heritage appreciation program will be considered to include year-round programming and upgrading/replacement of the visitor centre.
- Heritage appreciation activities will not occur within the Preservation Zone.

Campgrounds

- Minor improvements may include:
  - enlargement of campsites to accommodate larger camping units in Campground Loop A
  - consideration of individual site services, such as power
  - replacement of playground area to meet safety standards.
- Upgrades/repairs will be considered for:
  - shower buildings, and washrooms
  - laundry facilities
  - improved barrier-free accessibility
- Consideration will be given to modifying group areas to accommodate existing usage.

Day Use

- Consideration will be given to:
  - the addition of specific facilities, such as outdoor showers, to upgrade existing facilities to better accommodate existing usage.
  - modification of the parking area to improve existing usage.

Boating

- The park will monitor boat activity on Miquelon Lake 3 for the purposes of safety, shoreline impact, and protection of nesting activity.
- Power boating on Miquelon Lake 2 will be discouraged to protect waterfowl.

Trails

- The park trail system will be maintained to preserve existing quality and size for park visitors.
- The trail system will encourage links to a regional trail network within the Beaverhills area through a series of interconnected trails with neighbouring conservation organizations, including the Waskehagen Trails.

- Expansion for nature appreciation within the park will be considered.
- Trail expansion and improvements in the Natural Environment Zone will be considered.

Roads

- The park will consider the issue of speed on park roads in relation to safety concerns.

Commercial Activities

- Additional commercial activities may be considered, if they are in keeping with the natural environment and objectives of the park.
- Commercial activities, such as arcades, golf courses, lodges, hotels and convenience stores, will not be considered.

Park Shop and Office

- Upgrading of the park shop will be considered.

The Role of the Private Sector

- The private sector is encouraged to work with Alberta Parks and Protected Areas (Community Development) to operate and maintain existing facilities, and upgrade or construct new facilities (such as group use areas and parking lots) for improvements that are identified in this management plan.
- The park encourages partnerships that support the long-term preservation objectives and management plan of the park.

Land Acquisition

- The long-range intent of the park is to work with the County of Camrose to seek opportunities to purchase lands adjacent to the park to allow for a park land expansion. The lands considered for expansion must be voluntarily made available for sale, and have existing land use that is compatible with park objectives.
- The park's priority in land acquisition is the purchase of the one remaining private cottage that exists within the park. If the existing cottage owner wishes to voluntarily sell their property to the park, the cottage site would be rehabilitated to match the park's natural surroundings.

Surrounding Land Use

- The park will work with the County of Camrose to ensure surrounding land use is compatible with park objectives.

Plan Implementation

- Redevelopment will proceed on a priority basis, as budget resources are available.
- The park will consider, and seek out, partnership opportunities to implement this management plan.
- A 10-year review will ensure opportunities for public input and feedback.